



VAGABOND

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Fishing Hobo Style: Fishing Line, String, Cord

(self.vagabond)

submitted 17 hours ago * by [huckstah](#) **Trainhopper / Hitchhiker**

Fishing Line

After you have decided which type of rod/reel setup you use, the next step is choosing your line.

Ideally, you want use real fishing line that is meant for fishing, but that isn't always an option for a houseless traveler. So let's not only go into fishing line, but viable alternatives for line that a vagabond likely has in their backpack.

- [String/Cord/Twine](#)

In all honesty, despite the looong list of arguments concerning the "perfect line", you can catch a fish with just about any form of string that a vagabond can typically get: Paracord, shoestrings, hemp cord, twine, string, etc.

However, do keep in mind that the width of your line will obviously



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determine it's visibility, thus potentially scaring fish away and limiting your ability to get a strike. However, for simple bank fishing, such as fishing for bluegill, small bass, or crappie, you can catch them fairly easily using whatever string you have attached to the end of a stick, pole, or spool, including shoestring.

I personally suggest hemp twine, as it is cheap, thin, strong, natural, and blends into muddy/unclear water. But that's just my opinion.

In the end, use WHATEVER string or twine is available to you. If a fish is hungry, it's going to be more concerned about the bait, not the string. And if you are patient, you can catch a fish with any type of string attached to any type of pole, period. That is a historical fact, and it is still very, very true today.

- [Fishing Line](#)

If you have a few bucks and want to CONSIDERABLY increase your chances of catching a fish, you'll want to spend 3-5 bucks on some actual decent fishing line that is meant specifically for maximizing your chances of catching fish time and time again.

Fishing line is cheap, light, and compact, and if you are serious about catching a fish quickly, it is DEFINITELY worth the purchase.

However, there are different types, colors, and strengths of fishing line, and this can be rather intimidating and complicated to a vagabond that doesn't know too much about fishing.

Don't let all of these choices over-complicate things for you. Remember, you're a hobo, not a competition bass angler or sport

Vagabonds, Hobos, Hitchhikers, Trainhoppers, Squatters, Rubbertramps, Backpackers, and more.

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fisherman, so let's keep this simple, and let's keep it cheap.

In most fishing situations, you are going to want [CLEAR fishing line](#) that has a "test weight" of 4-8 pounds of test.

Keep in mind, that just because your line is rated for anywhere from 4-8 pounds, that does NOT mean you'll only be able to catch fish between 4-8 pounds. This number is simply a "general" estimate of its average tension strength, and if you are careful and patient, you can exceed the weight of your line with no problem at all.

I have personally caught 10+ pound catfish on a 6 pound test weighted line. Likewise, I have caught a 6 ounce bluegill on a line rated for 8 pounds.

Also keep in mind that you are fishing for FOOD, not sport. A single hobo doesn't need to catch a 10 pound bass or a 20 pound catfish to cook over a campfire, unless you're trying to feed an entire army of hobos.

Any fish over 10-12 inches in length is plenty of food for a single hobo meal, so don't worry about getting really heavy lines, braided lines, leaders, or any of this fancy stuff meant for heavy-duty fishing.

Once again, although we could go way more in-depth about fishing line, and argue the subject for all eternity, most of the objectivity when it comes to fishing line is simply overkill for a hobo fisherman on the road.

Feel free to research more into various fishing lines, but in all honesty, a 4lb-6lb clear fishing line is ideal for a hungry vagabond

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